

Soldier Hollow to Offer Biathlon Clinic

11-18-98

In an effort to help the development of athletes, regardless of age or ability, as well as make Olympic Games more accessible to the public, the Utah Winter Games is holding its thirteenth season of exciting, affordable winter sport clinics and events.

This time around, a biathlon clinic will be held at Soldier Hollow, Wasatch Mountain State Park in Midway, on Dec. 19, 1998. This is a great opportunity to learn beginning biathlon techniques, both the skiing and the shooting.

No experience necessary and there is no charge. All you need to bring is your cross country skis and poles, along with a desire to learn. If needed, .22 caliber bolt rifles will be made available, also.

The clinic, which is held from 9:30 a.m. to noon, will be instructed by Gary Wallin of the Utah National Guard, and Joan Guetschow, Olympian and Biathlon coach.

Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. the day of the events. Interested parties may pre-register by calling (801)975-4515.

If the biathlon isn't your thing, then check out the other clinics offered by Utah Winter Games: learn to bobsled at Bear Hollow on Jan. 13-15; learn to cross country ski at White Pine Touring Center in Park City on Dec. 12 and 13; learn figure skating on Nov. 20, 27, and Dec. 5; learn to snowboard the half pipe at Park City Mountain Resort on Dec. 13 and 20; learn to snowboard the giant slalom at Park City Mountain Resort on Dec. 12; learn ice hockey on Dec. 16 at Oquirrh Park Oval; learn to ski on Dec. 21 at The Canyons; learn to ski jump at Bear Hollow in Park City on Dec. 19; learn to snowboard on Dec. 5 and 13 at Park City Mountain Resort, and again at The Canyons on Dec. 22; learn speed skating on Nov. 19, Dec. 9 and Dec. 15; and learn technical skiing and gates at Deer Valley Resort on Dec. 19.

On top of those, there are also clinics

on ski racing for people with disabilities (Jan. 6 and 7), mogul skiing (Dec. 12), and a number of winter sports safety clinics.

With access to the finest winter recreational facilities in the world, Utahns have the unbelievable opportunity to ski and snowboard at some of the world's greatest ski resorts on undeniably the world's greatest snow. Add to that the new Olympic facilities for luge, bobsled, ski jumping, speed skating, hockey, cross country, biathlon and curling, and it's obvious that Utahns have an unparalleled combination of resources at their fingertips.

Combine those resources with the free Utah Winter Games instructional clinics, which provide world class instructors (many are former Olympians!), and you have an unbeatable way to get involved in that sport you always thought was too expensive to learn.

The Utah Winter Games runs its free instructional clinics through November and December, with its competitive events running Jan. 2-18. Nov. 14 marked the beginning of the Utah Winter Games season, with a Red Cross Sports Safety Training clinic. Speed skating, figure skating, snowboard and telemark clinics run the following two weeks, with many more to come in December.

Jan. 2, 1999 marks the start of the competition season, with women's hockey, half pipe and Southwest Airlines recreational ski races at Deer Valley, Snowbird and Brighton. The season wraps up on Jan. 18 with speed skating, snowboarding giant slalom and the Knudsen Cup high school ski races. In between, you'll find competitive events tailored to people of all ages and all abilities in over 25 winter sports.

To register or receive more information on any Utah Winter Games program, call 1-800-959UTAH, or access the Utah Winter Games website at www.utahwintergames.org.

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